

Message Text

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70

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIEP-01 COME-00 EB-07

FPC-01 INT-05 OMB-01 SAM-01 OES-03 STR-04 TRSE-00

FEA-01 AGR-05 /103 W

----- 024656

R 241459Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2371

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FREETOWN 3130

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, LY, SL

SUBJECT: LIBYAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATION VISIT TO SIERRA LEONE

1. ELEVEN MAN LIBYAN GOVT DELEGATION, COMPRISED MOSTLY OF TECHNICIANS, WHICH VISITED SL FOR A WEEK AND RECEIVED EXCELLENT GOSL TREATMENT, AS FOLLOW-UP TO PRESIDENT STEVEN'S RECENT STATE VISIT TO LIBYA, DEPARTED DEC 12. VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN LONG ON FLOWERY STATEMENTS BUT VERY SHORT ON PRACTICAL RESULTS, ESPECIALLY ANY OF NATURE WHICH MIGHT HELP EASE INCREASINGLY CRITICAL SL FINANCIAL SITUATION.

2. ACCORDING TO JOINT "MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING" SIGNED AT END OF VISIT, "AGREEMENTS REACHED" INCLUDED COMMITMENT BY LIBYAN GOVT TO SUPPLY SL'S CRUDE OIL REQUIREMENTS "IN QUANTITIES AND TERMS OF SALES" TO BE AGREED UPON. PRACTICAL EFFECT THIS "COMMITMENT" EXPECTED BY LOCAL OIL
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COMPANIES AND REFINERY OFFICIALS TO BE ZERO. ACCORDING

TRADE SOURCES, REFINERY MANAGER STATES LIBYAN CRUDE LESS SUITABLE FOR LOCAL MARKET THAN THAT FROM PRESENT NIGERIAN SOURCE AND THAT REFINERY MANAGER HIMSELF UNABLE UNDERSTAND WHAT WORDING OF "AGREEMENT" INTENDED TO MEAN. LOCAL MANAGERS OF FIVE DISTRIBUTING COMPANIES (WHICH TOGETHER OWN 50 PERCENT OF REFINERY) WERE NOT CONSULTED AT ANY POINT ABOUT EFFECT OF PROPOSED ARRANGEMENT ON EXISTING CONTRACTS THEY HOLD WITH GOSL TO PROVIDE CRUDE FOR REFINERY. ALL IN TRADE HIGHLY DOUBTFUL LANDED COST OF LIBYAN CRUDE WOULD BE EVEN SAME, MUCH LESS LOWER, THAN PRESENT NIGERIAN CRUDE AND DOUBT ANY PRACTICAL RESULT OF "AGREEMENT" WILL EVENTUATE.

3. OTHER SPECIFIC "COMMITMENTS" INCLUDE EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS, ESTABLISHMENT OF LIBYAN-RUN COMERCIAL BANK, ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT AGRICULTURAL COMPANY, ESTABLISHMENT OF INTEGRATED CULTURAL ISLAMIC CENTER, AND OTHER SMALL CULTURAL AND HEALTH PROJECTS.

4. "MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING" SIGNED AT END OF VISIT, WHICH DESCRIBED IN GOSL INFO SERVICE RELEASE AS "REPRESENTING A PROGRAM OF COOPERATIVE ACTION" BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES, ALSO INCLUDED GENERAL EXPRESSION OF INTENT EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES OF COOPERATION IN TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AGROINDUSTRIES, HEALTH, SHIPPING, FISHING, MINING, AND SOCIAL WELFARE ALL OF WHICH ARE TO BE "STUDIES FURTHER" BY GOL.

5. EMBASSY TENTATIVE CONCLUSION IS THAT SIERRA LEONEAN EFFORTS OBTAIN QUICK FINANCIAL "FIX" FROM FRIENDLY ARAB BROTHERS TO NORTH HAVE STRUCK OUT.

6. "MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING" POUCHED DEC 25.
SAMUELS

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